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LETTER DATED 11 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Security Council resolution 781 (1992) of 9 October 1992 was violated about 18 hours after its passage. The fighter planes of the Belgrade regime and its proxies in Bosnia and Herzegovina carried out about 30 sorties against the town of Gradacac on the morning of 10 October 1992. Early reports indicate that about 40 civilians were killed and up to 100 were injured.

Gradacac has been bombed for weeks now, as the aggressor continues its strategy of consolidating control of the northern land corridor of Bosnia and Herzegovina linking the Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia to Belgrade. Gradacac, in the region of Tuzla, is one of the towns which falls within the corridor and has yet to fall.

The military authorities in Tuzla have evidence that it will be the next target. Consequently, they have informed the Government that they are promulgating a desperate defensive strategy which could affect the lives of "residents of ... Slavonia (Croatia), Vojvodina (Serbia) and parts of Hungary".

Regional authorities in Tuzla are positioning tankers full of chlorine throughout the region of Tuzla, "for purposes of necessary defence", as they have no conventional weapons with which to defend themselves. If an attack against the city begins, there is a very high likelihood of these tankers being struck, thus releasing poisonous chlorine into the atmosphere.

This is a desperate strategy of people who have been under siege for six months, people who are frustrated, scared and ignored. They have defended their city for months without any help, military or humanitarian, from the outside. They have made numerous appeals for help, especially for humanitarian aid. I have made those appeals on their behalf on numerous occasions to the Security Council, the latest coming on 8 September 1992.

Given the numerous appeals, none of which have been considered, they still remain loyal to the Government. The Government, however, cannot satisfy

their urgent need of defence. My Government is making a vigorous effort to dissuade any desperate acts, such as the use of a "chlorine shield" as a defensive weapon, but it needs the help of the Security Council.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative